

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-03

L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8052

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 5545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SPC DISCUSSION OCTOBER 7 OF DATA ISSUES

REF: A) USNATO 5446; B) MBFR VIENNA 290; C) MBFR VIENNA 199;

D) MBFR VIENNA 286

1. SPC ON OCTOBER 7 DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF USE OF REVISED DATA WITH OTHER SIDE. NETHERLANDS REP (SIZOO) NOTED THAT THE NETHERLANDS HAS LONG OPPOSED THE UNILATERAL USE OF THE REVISED TOTALS WITH THE OTHER SIDE. HOWEVER, THE NETHERLANDS NOW ACCEPTS THE U.S. ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF UNILATERAL USE. HE SAID THIS WILL HELP THE ALLIES KEEP THE INITIATIVE IN VIENNA. IT IS NOT A CONCESSION, SINCE THE ALLIES GAVE THE EAST DATA IN THESE CATEGORIES A YEAR AGO. FURTHERMORE, IF THE PACT WERE EVENTUALLY ABLE TO ACCEPT THE ALLIED FIGURES, THE AHG WOULD FACE A DIFFICULT SITUATION IF IT THEN HAD TO CONTINUE THE SECRET

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DISCUSSION BASED ON THE OLD DATA.

2. FRG REP (RANTZAU) SAID THE FRG REMAINED OPPOSED TO USE OF THE NEW DATA WITH THE OTHER SIDE. HE SAID HE DISAGREED WITH

SIZOO ON THE NEED FOR THE ALLIES TO KEEP THE INITIATIVE, IF THIS MEANS THAT WE KEEP FEEDING NEW ELEMENTS PIECEMEAL TO THE OTHER SIDE WHILE THE LATTER KEEPS SILENT. SIZOO CONSIDERED THIS A PESSIMISTIC VIEWPOINT, AND SAID THE NETHERLANDS WAS CERTAINLY NOT PROPOSING THAT THE ALLIES YIELD ON SOMETHING IMPORTANT LIKE THE COMMON CEILING JUST TO KEEP THE INITIATIVE. U.S. REP (MOORE) SUPPORTED THE DUTCH CONTENTION THAT USE OF THE REVISED DATA WOULD NOT BE A CONCESSION, AND BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED THE U.S. POSITION.

3. UK REP (BAILES) SAID LONDON COULD STILL NOT SUPPORT THE USE OF THE REVISED FIGURES FOR ALLIED FORCES WITH THE OTHER SIDE. HERE AUTHORITIES WISHED TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING OPENING GAMBIT IN THE REDEFINITION DISCUSSIONS. THE ALLIES WOULD TELL THE EAST THAT THE CURRENT TABLED FIGURES ARE THE BEST ALLIED ESTIMATE AS ON NOVEMBER, 1973, THAT THESE FIGURES MAY NOW BE OUT OF DATE, AND THAT THE ALLIES ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS DATA IN THE CONTEXT OF A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE.

4. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BREAKDOWN, NO SPC MEMBER HAD NEW INSTRUCTIONS BEYOND THE POSITIONS STATED AT THE LAST MEETING (REF A).

5. COMMENT: THE INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT AT THIS MEETING WAS MOVEMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE SIDE OF THE U.S. AND CANADA IN SUPPORTING UNILATERAL PRESENTATION OF THE REVISED TOTALS TO THE OTHER SIDE. THE FRG, UK, AND BELGIUM REMAIN IN OPPOSITION. THE NEW MC-224 CONFERENCE FIGURE OF 937,000 MEN FOR THE PACT DID NOT ARISE.

6. THE OCTOBER 10 SPC WILL AFFORD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE IF THE SWITCH IN THE NETHERLANDS POSITION MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE TO OTHER MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY BELGIUM, WHICH IN THE PAST HAS FOLLOWED THE DUTCH LEAD ON THIS. IN ANY EVENT, THE FRG AND UK POSITIONS OPPOSING UNILATERAL USE OF DATA APPEAR FIRM. MISSION AGREES WITH VIENNA SUGGESTION THAT THE U.S. NOW CONSIDER A COMPROMISE APPROACH (PARA 2, REF B), ALTHOUGH WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO SEE IF THERE ARE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT THE OCTOBER 10 SPC.

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7. THE DATA ISSUE WHICH MOST TROUBLES THE FRG IS THE RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BREAKDOWN. THE U.S. REP POINTED OUT AT THE OCTOBER 3 SPC (REF A), AND THE FRG REPS UNDERSTAND, THAT THE SPC IS TALKING ABOUT A REPLY TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTION RAISED BY THE AHG IN PARA 14, REF C, I.E., IF THE EAST EXCHANGED DATA WITH THE ALLIES, AND THERE WERE DISCREPANCIES, THE ALLIES WOULD SUGGEST A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF THE COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BREAKDOWN TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THE DISCREPANCY. THE FRG REP STATED THE FRG WAS "ADAMANT" AGAINST SUCH AN EXCHANGE, ON GROUNDS THERE WAS TOO MUCH RISK OF FALLING INTO NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS. FRG DELEGATION OFFICER (HOYNCH) HAS SINCE RE-CONFIRMED TO US THE FIRMNESS OF BONN'S INSTRUCTIONS. MISSION SEES AS ONE

POSSIBLE REASON FOR FRG SENSITIVITY ON THIS ISSUE THE RECENT
EMPHASIS BY THE PACT IN VIENNA ON NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS AS A
MEANS OF PLACING LIMITS ON THE GROWTH OF FRG MILITARYPOWER (REF D)
MISSION DOES NOT BELIEVE WE NEED TO CONFRONT THE FRG ON THIS
ISSUE AT THIS TIME. WE WOULD SUGGEST PUTTING IT ASIDE UNTIL SUCH
TIME AS THE EAST DOES SHOW AN INTEREST IN A DATA EXCHANGE. IN
THAT EVENT, WE COULD EXPECT SUPPORT FROM THE OTHER ALLIES AGAINST
THE FRG POSITION AND FOR A RAPID RECISION TO PROPOSE A COUNTRY-BY-
COUNTRY EXCHANGE TO THE OTHER SIDE. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE
GUIDANCE IN TIME FOR OCTOBER 10 SPC.
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